


AXMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT
OF
Medical Officer of Health
1937.



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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

AXMINSTER,

May, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
AXMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report of the District for the year 1937.

Public Health Officer of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health—A. L. CROCKFORD, M.C., M.A., M.B., B.CH.,
(part time).

Sanitary Inspector & Building Surveyor—W. H. BIGGS (whole time)—
qualifications :

- (1) Certificate Sanitary Inspectors' Examination P.H.A. 1891, London.
- (2) Certificate as Sanitary Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute
- (3) Certificate as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
- (4) Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Private Works

Half Salaries paid by County Council.

A Health Visitor, who is also School Nurse, provided by the County Council.

Statistic and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (Acres)	...	...	51468
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	10411
Estimated Population (1937)	...	...	10090
Number of Inhabited Houses (1937)	...	...	3217
Rateable Value	...	...	£47374
Sums represented by a penny rate (gross)	...	...	£197 7s. 10d.

The Chief occupations are Agriculture and Dairy Farming.

Vital Statistics.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births { Legitimate	119	64	55	{ Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population 12·5
{ Illegitimate	7	3	4	
Still Births{	4	3	1	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... 12·9
Deaths ...	142	70	72	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated Population 14·1
Deaths from Puerperal causes—Nil.				

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age :-

All Infants per 1000 live births	...	...	31·7
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births			33·9
Illegitimate " " " illegitimate " "			Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	21
" " Measles (all ages)	...	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)		1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		Nil

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

District Nurses and Midwives.

All parishes have District Nurses except Stockland and Membury, but these parishes employ neighbouring Nurses for Maternity work. The system of small parishes trying to maintain the own individual Nurses would seem to be uneconomic and difficult, as many of the poorer families prefer to join a Hospital scheme rather than a local Nursing Association. Central control and better transport would be more efficient; several of these Nurses are only kept at duty after a great struggle for funds, which would seem to be a pity for so valuable and essential a service. The Sanitary Authority subscribe and Nurses are provided by the County Nursing Association.

No arrangements for nursing infectious diseases.

Their are eight Midwives practising in the Area.

The District has no Maternity or Nursing Home.

Laboratory Facilities Devon County Council.

Hospitals.

A.

- (1) Fever, Diphtheria and other infectious cases are admitted to the County Council Isolation Hospital at Whipton.

- (2) Small-pox—The County Council has arranged to provide accommodation.

B.

- (1) The County Council have Sanatoria at Ivybank, Exeter, and Hawkmoor, Bovey Tracey.
- (2) Axminster Cottage Hospital admits cases when beds are available.
- (3) Public Assistance Institution, Honiton.
- (4) Orthopædic Hospital, Exeter.

The Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, The Eye Infirmary, Exeter, and the Cottage Hospitals at Axminster, Chard and Lyme Regis admit patients from the District.

The Honiton Public Assistance Institution is the only institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

An Infant Welfare Centre has been recently opened at Axminster.

Ambulance Facilities.

For infectious cases from Whipton Isolation Hospital. For non-infectious and accident cases a motor Ambulance stationed at Honiton and that of the St. John's Ambulance Division at Axminster.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Orthopædic Clinic at Honiton. Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases at Exeter. Tuberculosis Dispensary at Exeter.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

AXMINSTER HAMLETS.

SMALLRIDGE. There is now an ample supply provided for this place together with parts of Chardstock not previously supplied.

RAYMONDS HILL and part of UPLYME. There is a supply of water available for the former place and water from this supply will be used to supplement the present supply at Uplyme.

PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

Samples of all these have been taken and examined bacteriologically with satisfactory results. In future these samples will be taken quarterly.

KILMINGTON.

A considerable amount of prospecting for water has been undertaken and it is anticipated that a supply may result in the near future.

MUSBURY.

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken in an endeavour to provide this Village with a pure supply of water but up to the present time without success. The Committee dealing with this matter are still prospecting and investigating different sources.

Drainage and Sewerage.

COLYTON. The important work of providing sewers and outfall work for the Town is nearing completion and the house connecting is in hand.

VILLAGES WITHOUT SCHEMES.

AXMINSTER HAMLETS

Smallridge and Raymonds Hill Areas, Chardstock, Dalwood, Hawkechurch, Kilmington, Membury, Musbury and Uplyme.

BEER. The outfall from the sewers remains without alteration discharging in the Bay close to the Beach.

Rivers and Streams.

The pollution of the River Coly at Colyton and Colyford will very soon be abated, now that a sewerage Scheme is in operation for this area.

Closet Accommodation.

Where a water supply and sewers are available water carriage system is in operation elsewhere conservancy system.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse removal is carried out in the following Parishes:- Axminster Hamlets, Beer, Chardstock, Colyton, Colyford, Hawkechurch, Membury, Uplyme and then taken to a refuse tip.

Shops.

These places are inspected in the ordinary routine inspection of premises.

Smoke Abatement.

No action found necessary.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

Bathing Pool at Colyton and Sea bathing at Beer.

Eradication of Bed Bug.

It has not been found necessary to take action either in Council Houses or other houses.

Housing.

See page 7 of circular 1650.

Schools.

There are 15 Schools in the Area and all have satisfactory sanitation and water supply except :—

HAWKCHURCH. Still dependent on the village well situated some distance away.

KILMINGTON. There is a plan in hand to remedy the defects here.

MEMBURY. Only fairly satisfactory.

Section D. Housing.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total Number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	180
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	206
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	157
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	175
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	22
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all aspects reasonably fit for human habitation	42

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	42
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(a)—Proceeds under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	..	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—					
(a) By Owners	...	..	...	...	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners				...	Nil

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	23
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—					
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	23
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners				...	Nil

(c)—Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	22
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	3

(d)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of Separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	Nil

4. *Housing Act 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding :—*

(a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	37
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	37
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	224
(b)—Number of New Cases of overcrowding reported during year	...	Nil
(c)—(i) Number of Cases of overcrowding relieved during year	...	Nil
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	Nil

Tabulated Statement.

Ceilings repaired	...	...	4
Roofs repaired	...	...	3
Floors repaired	...	...	6
Windows repaired and made to open	...	...	3
New W.C. Pans provided	...	...	3
Rooms cleansed and colourwashed	...	...	22
Flushing Cisterns repaired	...	...	4
Flushing Cisterns provided	...	...	6
Ashbins provided	...	...	48
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	9
Eaves gutters provided and repaired	...	...	6
Drains tested	...	...	27
Drains relaid	...	...	21
Accumulation of Refuse removed	...	...	3
Wells cleaned out and properly covered	...	...	9
Privies reconstructed	...	...	7
Sinks provided	...	...	2
Premises disinfected	...	...	41
Samples of water taken	...	...	24
Yards paved	...	...	5

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

During the year under revision the following samples were taken in the Area. Cleanliness 621. Tuberculosis 80. Number of visits to farms totaled 504.

Meat and other Foods.

Slaughter Houses and Butchers Shops are regularly inspected. 18 cwts. 91lbs. of Meat surrendered as unfit for food. Shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared—number of visits to these totaled 450.

Number of carcasses inspected :-

Bovines including 58 calves	...	...	368
Sheep	...	...	1176
Pigs	...	...	312

Adulteration.

No samples under F. & D. Act. This work is carried out by the Officers of the Devon County Council.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

47 notified during the year.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is supplied free for poor patients.

Arrangements are made by the County Council for examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens.

The Sanitary Inspector disinfects after infectious diseases.

No use has been made of the Schick or Dick tests or artificial methods of immunization.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulation 1917.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1937

Diseases.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox ..	Nil		
Scarlet Fever ...	25	15	1
Diphtheria ...	3	3	
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	1		
Pneumonia ...	8	2	4
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	Nil		
Other diseases generally notifiable ...	Erysipelas 2		

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Period.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1—5				1				
5—15			2	2				
15—25	2	1	1	3	1	1		
25—35							1	
35—45					1			
45—55	5			1				
55—	1				1	1		1
Total	8	1	3	7	3	2	1	1

A. L. CROCKFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

